



Informational Notes for EMDs and Local Officials

Bulletin #15 – July 31, 2002

SEMA Submits FY'02 Terrorism Grant Application

On July 29, 2002, SEMA submitted Missouri's application for the FY2002 State Domestic Preparedness Equipment Program Grant. The application was for a projected grant of \$6,079,000. The state will receive the grant upon approval of the application. **The grant application requested additional equipment funding for existing WMD Enhanced HAZMAT Teams as well as four new teams and three WMD Support Teams.** DOJ expanded the authorized equipment list for the FY02 grant cycle. This allowed existing teams to expand/supplement current WMD capabilities in the areas of chemical detection, decontamination, WMD technical rescue, explosive device mitigation and remediation, interoperable communications equipment, physical security enhancement, medical supplies, general support equipment and an expanded list of personal protective equipment.

Please contact Tom Mohr, 573-526-9245 or email: tmohr@sema.state.mo.us concerning any questions concerning the DOJ Equipment Grant Program.

Guidance on Hand-held Field Anthrax Testing Equipment

The White House is warning that anthrax field tests -- widely used since last fall's attacks -- give fast but often incorrect results, prompting authorities to shut down buildings prematurely and hand out unneeded antibiotics. In a July 20 memo to more than 250 federal agencies and to firefighters, police and local officials across the country, authorities say none of the commercially available field tests are reliable. They advise federal agencies to stop buying them and to cancel any contracts that are pending.

"This equipment does not pass acceptable standards for effectiveness," said the memo from John H. Marburger III, director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. "Field testing ... is not recommended and should not be used." The field tests -- which cost about \$35 each -- are designed to quickly determine whether a suspicious white powder could be anthrax, and hundreds of thousands of them were sold during and after last fall's attacks-by-mail.

The advisory comes after an extensive study of the tests by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the FBI. The study, the first of its kind, found that all tests on the market are prone to miss small amounts of anthrax and to detect anthrax when there was none there.

The memo advises authorities to send results to a CDC-approved lab, where they can get initial readings within six hours. A 17-page set of guidelines offers detailed suggestions for how to handle suspicious mail, warning agencies not to take "dramatic actions" before figuring out whether the threat is credible. The guidelines also recommend that federal agencies stop routinely testing their mailrooms for anthrax, given that most mail is being irradiated, low levels of anthrax do not pose a significant risk and the tests used are not reliable.

100 Participate in State Agency Terrorism Exercise

Over 100 state agency responders participated in a Bioterrorism exercise at the State Emergency



Operations Center in Jefferson City. The players were divided into four working groups. The lead instructor gave a situation report at the beginning of each of three movements. Based on the amount of information given, the groups were asked to make recommendations/decisions to local responders. Each group elected a spokesperson to present their recommendations to the entire audience. While the "spokes persons" were discussing their actions, the public information officers (PIOs) were tasked to address media needs based on the information available. In

some instances, the PIOs were more proactive and in other instances, they were more conservative than the "decision makers."

DNR Releases '02 Missouri Drought Plan

A 2002 drought plan for the State of Missouri has been released by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Replacing the 1995 plan, the 2002 Missouri Drought Plan provides coordinated guidance for state and federal agencies during drought conditions. It also provides guidance for preparing for times of drought and is part of the integrated State Emergency Operations Plan of the State Emergency Management Agency.

How do I find the 2002 Drought Plan on the Internet? First go to the DRN web page listed in the past paragraph of this article. Click on the Water Link at the bottom of the DNR Homepage. It will bring up the Water Issues Page. Scroll to Monitoring and click on Drought Plan. This will bring up the Water Resources Program Page then scroll to Planning and click on the 2002 Plan in PDF format.

The 2002 Missouri Drought Plan, which is in a book format, provides many helpful pointers that will be beneficial to local water suppliers and other parties. The 2002 Missouri Drought Plan is available from the department's Geological Survey and Resource Assessment Division at Rolla -- call (573) 368-2125 or access the department's web site at www.dnr.state.mo.us for the electronic version.

FEMA Begins Distributing Fire Grants

The Federal Emergency Management Agency will distribute \$360M to approximately 5500 Assistance for Firefighters Grants before the end of this year. To date, 13 Missouri Fire Departments have received grants.

The following departments received grants for fire operations and firefighter safety: City of Clayton Fire Department (\$80,298); Pleasant Hill Fire Rescue (\$25,380); Hillsboro Fire Protection District (\$32,040); Bronaugh Community Fire Protection (\$26,423); Hume City Volunteer Fire Department (\$13,639); Belton Emergency Services (\$39,785); Wheeling Rural Fire Department (\$46,962); Joplin Fire Department (\$50,400); Moody Volunteer Fire Department (\$31,697); Clarksville Fire Department (\$27,000); Hannibal Rural Fire Protection District (\$23,400); and Farber Volunteer Fire Department (\$49,941). Pierce City Volunteer Fire Department received (\$54,000) to purchase a firefighting vehicle.

Emerging Volunteer Agencies - How to Manage Interest in Homeland Security

During his 2002 State of the Union Address, President George W. Bush announced the creation of USA Freedom Corps, a call to service for every American. Citizen Corps is a component of USA Freedom Corps that encompasses public education, training, and volunteer opportunities to engage all citizens in making their communities safer, stronger, and better prepared for preventing and handling threats of terrorism, crime, and disasters of all kinds. This concept is much discussed in Missouri as in most other states. Clearly, there are still a variety of program questions and issues that are still under discussion and development. Nonetheless, a consequence of this new emphasis on volunteerism is that more people and organizations want to be involved in emergency management and homeland security than prior to September 11th.

Citizen Corps Councils act as an umbrella for volunteer service relating to homeland security. Missouri is fortunate to be advanced in volunteer management. This may be why in some areas of Missouri, the purpose of the Citizen Corp Council may not appear as clear and unique as it does in other areas of the state. Some communities already have an umbrella or collaborative in place. (e.g. local VOAD or volunteer resource center). However, not every community has a coordination mechanism. As it evolves, the Citizen Corp Council will have a specific role to play in communities.

Organizations must know that coordination among agencies is required and essential for an effective response. There are several formal and informal mechanisms in Missouri communities to ensure appropriate coordination and collaboration. There is no one single mechanism present in every community in the state. Some options most commonly seen include:

- Coordination through the local emergency management office.
- Coordination through a local VOAD.
- Coordination through the state VOAD.
- Coordination through local volunteer resource center or United Way agency

Emergency management directors should identify what mechanism exists in your community and introduce emergent volunteer agencies to that mechanism. Your emergency operation plan may detail volunteer coordination in times of response. If so, you can open communications with that volunteer coordinator. If no collaborative network exists at the local level check with Missouri VOAD for help and guidance in determining

how to best bring a new organization into partnership with the many active agencies involved in emergency management.

Will this have an impact on a community's emergency management program? Yes and this can be positive if proper steps are taken. Individual volunteers who come forward looking for ways to contribute should be referred to agencies and organizations that have bona fide volunteer programs. Such organizations have a volunteer administrative structure with supervision and existing volunteer job opportunities. Two good examples are the American Red Cross and The Salvation Army. These organizations are interested in quality volunteers even in rural areas where there may not be a Red Cross or Salvation Army facility. Learn where and who is the local or regional contact person for those agencies. Other organizations, especially churches and faith-based organizations, often have good disaster relief programs and such organizations are in practically every community. Check the SEMA web site at <http://www.sema.state.mo.us/> and the Disaster Recovery Resource Guide or the link to the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster web site <http://www.nvoad.org/>. Of course, if the emergency management agency has a volunteer program then refer volunteers to that program if appropriate. There are some good examples of emergency management volunteer programs in Missouri.

For further information contact either MOVOAD Chair Scott Emerson (417-832-9500) or SEMA Statewide Volunteer Coordinator, Dante Gliniecki (573-526-9132).

Lewis & Clark Re-Enactment Proposed Fall 2003, Summer 2004 Itinerary

The 40-44 Corps of Discovery Lewis & Clark Re-Enactors will try to match the original journal notes and dates with their Mississippi and Missouri River journey. According to Missouri Department of Conservation's Shannon Cave (one of the re-enactors), the keelboat and two dugout pirogues will enter the Mississippi River at the confluence of the Ohio on November 22. The group will paddle up the Mississippi to their winter camp over site at Camp Dubois (Wood River, IL) on December 9, 2003. During this trip, the reenactors will participate in events at Cape Girardeau and Ste. Genevieve.

The 2004 Missouri River dates are from May 14-July 18. The Corps will leave Wood River, IL on May 14 traveling down the Mississippi reaching the confluence of the Missouri at St. Charles on May 15-23. During St. Charles stopover, they will sign on new Corps members, await the arrival of President Jefferson's secretary, Merewether Lewis, and re-enact other recorded events.

Tentative dates and locations are as follows: May 23 at Weldon Springs, May 24 at Tavern Rock, May 24-26 at Washington, May 26-27 at Herman, May 27-28 Mouth of Gasconade, May 29-30 Chamois, May 30-June 1 Mouth of the Osage, June 1-4 Jefferson City, June 5-6 Lupus, June 6-7 Rocheport, June 8-10 Booneville, June 10-11 Glasgow, June 11-13 Brunswick (Mouth of the Grand River), June 14-15 Miami, June 18-19 Lexington, June 20-21 Napoleon, June 20-24 Fort Osage, June 26-29 Kansas City, KS (Mouth of the Kansas River), June 29-30 Parkville, July 1-2 Leavenworth, July 2-5 Atchison, July 6-8 Palermo, July 9-12 St. Joseph, July 12-16 White Cloud (Little Tarkio) and July 16-18 Brownville, NE (across from Atchison County).

Many of the communities are planning celebrations. The Missouri Water Patrol anticipates inexperienced boaters will be on the Missouri River. Local Emergency Management Agencies need to begin planning now for both the local festival and the real possibility water rescues.

Free Classes Offered by SEMA

SEMA's Training Officer, Jim Charrier, reminds Local Officials, Emergency Management Directors, Fire and Law personnel that SEMA offers free WMD Classes. If you would like to sign up for one of these classes call Susan Rhoades (573-526-9121) or Tin Brown (573-526-9215) immediately to enroll in a class.

- August 1-2, Medical Considerations for a WMD Event with RAM at St. Luke's Medical Center, St. Louis
- August 6-8, Public Works: Preparing for and Responding to Terrorism (WMD) with TEEX at the SEOC, Jefferson City.
- August 22-23, Medical Considerations for a WMD Event (RAM) at 600 Broadway, Suite 300, Kansas City.
- September 4-5, Developing Volunteer Resources (PDS) in Hannibal.
- September 18-19, Resource Management (APS) at the St. Louis University Conference Center.
- September 24-25, Biological, Nuclear, Incendiary, Chemical and Explosive (BNICE) with RAM at the Best Western Inn, Jefferson City.